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COMIC SHOP NEWS™
MATT WAGNER'S
GREEN HORNET YEAR ONE

RISE AND FALL

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WRITTEN BY J.T. KRUL

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Into the Hornet's Nest

Last month, *CSN* told readers about *Kevin Smith's* ***Green Hornet*** series. It turns out that Smith's new series is just the first of several ***Green Hornet*** projects in the works from Dynamite—projects that focus on both Smith's contemporary reinterpretation of the Hornet and on the original Golden Age hero.

Green Hornet: Year One takes readers back to the Golden Age, where they meet Britt Reid and Kato at the beginning of their crimefighting career. And when it comes to chronicling the adventures of Golden Age heroes, there are few writers more capable than *Matt Wagner*. "Obviously this is the sort of genre I really identify with," Wagner said. "Not only in regards to the Golden Age time period but also the 'masked lone avenger.' I mean, if you look at my career over the years, I've got a real history of portraying these sort of characters: Batman, the Golden Age Sandman, Zorro, even the original Hunter Rose incarnation of Grendel fits into this mold somewhat—albeit from the villainous side of things. So, I heard that Nick was trying to get the rights to The Green Hornet, I offered up my services as writer. It just seemed like a natural fit.

"My involvement with the project actually started at a con in Texas," Wagner continued. "Nick, *John Cassaday*, and I were part of a 'Westerns In Comics' panel due to Dynamite's success with basically resurrecting the genre almost single-handedly. They already had both ***The Lone Ranger*** and ***Zorro*** in publication and were just prepping their version of ***The Man With No Name***. Anyway, someone in the audience asked about the possibility of a ***Green Hornet*** comic franchise to tie in with ***The Lone Ranger*** book; both of these characters were created back in the '30s by radio dramatist *Fran Striker*—and, in fact, The Hornet is supposed to be The Ranger great-nephew.

"Nick explained the rights to both of these titles had been separated over the years and were now controlled by different legal entities. Still, he claimed that he had indeed been working on acquiring the rights to ***The Green Hornet*** for several years now and was close to finalizing a deal. Well, *both* Cassaday and myself are huge fans of this type of material—and, in fact, John is a raving ***Green Hornet*** nut! I immediately turned to Nick and said, 'Hey man, you get ***The Hornet*** and I'd love to write it,' at which point John chimed in, 'And I'm on the covers!' It was a year or so later that Nick called me to say that he'd secured the rights and, if I was still interested, the gig was mine for the asking."

Is Wagner retelling the origin of the character, or is he creating a new backstory for the Green Hornet? "Funny thing is, there really *isn't* a distinct origin story for The Hornet—unlike The Lone Ranger, who's always had a very famous origin. In the old radio dramas, The Hornet's just who he is and pursuing his anti-crime crusade from the very beginning. He's already got Kato as his ethnically-changing valet (at one point he's Japanese, at one point Korean and then, finally, he's Filipino), he's already inherited the reins of ***The Daily Sentinel*** from his dad, and he's already operating in costume with his alter-ego publicly perceived as a big-time, secret criminal mastermind.

"There might be a more fleshed out origin in the comic book series that Now Comics published back in the '80s, but I made a deliberate decision to avoid reading those; I wanted to give this series my own particular spin and not be influenced by other comic-book narratives of the character. So, this gave me an opportunity to re-define The Green Hornet from the roots up. Dynamite's also launching two other Hornet titles; *Kevin Smith's* Silver Age version and *Brett Matthews'* near-future "Ultimate" take. But this is the very genesis of the character, and I was thrilled to have the chance to flesh out all the specifics of what makes Britt Reid into a masked hero. Why does he choose to be a costumed vigilante? Why does he choose that rather unusual name for his alter-ego? How does he hook with and become such good friends with Kato? I'm gonna be explaining all of that!"

Will the aforementioned newspaper career play any role in the story, other than to give his civilian identity a career to go with the name? "Absolutely," Wagner said. "It's a *huge* factor in my approach to the character. It goes to the very core of who is and its presence presents a neat conundrum that needs answering. That is, if Britt is the heir to an established newspaper empire, why does he choose to become a vigilante? Britt's father was a crusading journalist who, in his own fashion, fought crime every day—through the editorial content of ***The Daily Sentinel***. So what is it that spurs Britt to a more covert and physically aggressive approach to fighting crime? If he's now in charge, why doesn't he just continue in his father's footsteps, uncovering graft, vice and corruption through investigative journalism? Again, all will be explained during the course of our tale!"

The Green Hornet, Superman, the Question, Spider-Man—it seems that there are numerous comic book heroes with newspaper links. What's the reason for that? "It's due to the fact that newspapers are the informational crux of our society—or they were," Wagner said. "Modern heroes tend to be more internet-connected. But, being part of a newspaper community meant you were poised on the very brink of the most up-to-date information... making it easier to respond to crimes and emergencies in a timely fashion."

Wagner has a long-term plan for ***Green Hornet: Year One***. "The first year is divided into two six-issue arcs. The first half focuses on the Hornet's initial forays in costume as well as flashbacks sequences that cover Britt and Kato's youth, first meeting, and growing friendship. The second arc details the actual mechanics of how they set up the crusade—the gun, the car, the hideout, etc.—and introduces all the peripheral characters that are familiar to long-time Hornet fans... as well as a few new ones of my own!"

Does Wagner see Kato as more than the traditional backup muscle with little personality? "Kato is another aspect that needed to be seriously addressed," Wagner said. "I needed to come up with a reason why this bad-ass martial arts expert would fill a subservient role to a rich, white dude whose ass he could whup without raising a sweat. I wanted to make Kato a vital part of this team—and, in fact, he's very instrumental in the formation of their crusade.

"Their origin stories—Britt and Kato's, that is—run concurrently through the first story arc. I feel like I've definitely given Kato some distinct personality and I managed to wrap his origin around a real historical event of the time period. To solve the ethnicity question, I've taken the approach that Kato is definitely Japanese. I don't really wanna say too much more than this right now and spoil all the fun. But, again, we see how these two become friends and then partners in fighting crime."

When it comes to adversaries for the Green Hornet, Wagner's drawing inspiration from a Golden Age comic strip mainstay. "There will be no costumed villains," Wagner said. "I'm basically following the ***Dick Tracy*** model here where the gangsters are 'ordinary' but also somewhat grotesque.

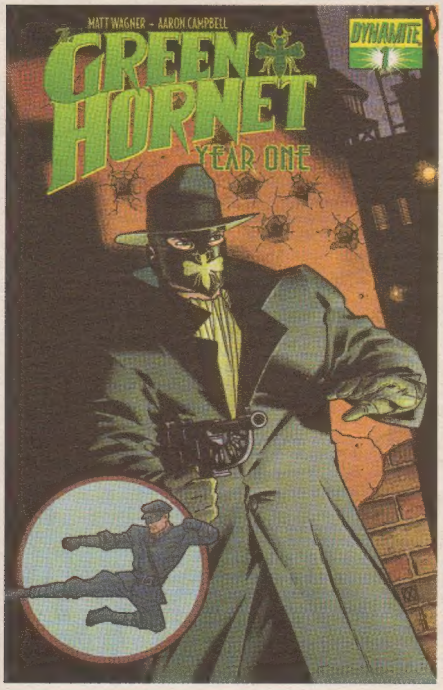
Does Wagner get to touch on the Green Hornet-Lone Ranger connection at all? Unfortunately, no. "Like I said, two different owners for two different characters," Wagner said. "I don't know if Nick's working on some sort of crossover deal—and wouldn't be surprised if he was—but, for now, they're not connected. Or at least... in no way that we can distinctly mention!"

Joining Wagner on ***Green Hornet: Year One*** is artist *Aaron Campbell*, fresh off Dynamite's acclaimed ***Sherlock Holmes***. Campbell explained how he became involved in the project. "I had a very influential person who wanted to see me on this book. This past summer at SDCC, I met *John Cassaday*, who was doing all the covers for ***Sherlock Holmes***. He told me how much he liked the work I was doing on ***Holmes*** and that he was going to talk to Nick about a project he thought I should be on. Can I just say I was quite giddy at this point?...

"Later Nick came up and asked point blank if I wanted to draw *Matt Wagner's* ***Green Hornet***. I'm pretty sure I said yes before he even got all the words outs. Nick then showed my work to Matt, who gave me the green light. So here I'm working with some of the most respected names in comics on my second book! It really can't get much better!"

Campbell seems to have a real skill at illustrating period pieces—first ***Sherlock Holmes***, and now a Golden Age tale. Was it just coincidence that he ended up on two projects set in the past, or doe she particularly enjoy doing retro-style work? "I think my artistic sensibilities are suited to this type of work," Campbell said. "I've always been interested in historic subject matter and I'm heavily influenced by classic illustration. So I'm pretty sure that they saw a common thread in ***Sherlock*** that would work well for ***Green Hornet***."

Does a Golden Age-era tale require much research on Campbell's part? "Probably way more than I actually need to," Campbell joked. "But that's the way I like to do things. I want to be as accurate to the period as I can possibly get, creating basically a snapshot of a very unique moment in history. That way the work has a better chance of transporting the reader into the world of the story. For me, at least, one glaring anachronism can shatter the whole illusion, making it really



Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

hard to get invested with the characters.

For instance, I've been working on a scene that involves Japanese imperial soldiers and exposed underwear. I started thinking, 'What kind of underwear did the Japanese have? Was it the same as in the west?' No it wasn't. And it's a good thing I did the research, because prior to WWII Japanese men wore a garment called a 'fundoshi' which is essentially, as far as I can tell, the world's first banana hammock. And the scene is definitely *much* better with a fundoshi!"

Is Campbell striving for historic authenticity in ***Green Hornet: Year One***, or is he creating a synthesis of the historical period and comics' stylized Golden Age look? "I think there's a bit of synthesis, but it certainly leans more towards the realistic," Campbell said. "If anything, the work probably owes more to film noir and the pulp and mainstream illustration traditions of the mid-century than anything else. Ultimately, though, I'm drawing it the way I like to draw—which I guess means that I'm predisposed to this kind of subject matter. And that's just fine with me!"

While Wagner and Campbell expand on the Green Hornet's early days, Ande Parks and Ale Garza find themselves exploring two eras and two characters in ***Kevin Smith's Kato***.

Parks is the writer of the series that explores the links between the original Kato and the female Kato featured in ***Kevin Smith's Green Hornet***. "The new Kato is the original's daughter," Parks said. "In Kevin's Green Hornet universe, the original is in his mid-fifties now, while our new version is almost twenty."

Is this new Kato interested in following in the footsteps of her father, or is there some outside catalyst for her assumption of the role? "The new Kato, Mulan, has much of her father's natural martial arts talent, but she's more interested in what the average twenty year old girl is into: boys, clothes, partying with her friends (twenty is the legal drinking age in Japan), texting, etc.," Parks said. "But something big happens in our first issue- something that makes it impossible for this family to simply maintain the status quo; the story *is* entitled "Not My Father's Daughter," after all. Mulan's hand is definitely forced. She's pushed into assuming her father's mantle suddenly, and earlier than she would have preferred."

What's the biggest difference in the two Katos—other than gender, of course? "The biggest difference is a matter of perspective. In Kevin's outline, the original Kato retires in his late twenties or early thirties. Between then and when our story picks up, he's fallen in love with a Japanese woman, married that woman, had Mulan, and settled into a life where his main concern is being a good family man and pursuing spiritual balance. He's trying to set aside the conflict of his early days of manhood.

"Mulan, being twenty, is not as into the whole spiritual balance scene. She lives in the moment, and she enjoys some conflict in her life. While Kato finds it hard to relate to his daughter, she's really a lot like he was at the same age.

"Our series has lots of kung fu action and fighting, but it's really about our two Katos finding a way to bridge that universal gap that forms between father and daughter as a daddy's girl becomes her own woman."

Parks faces quite a challenge: he's writing a book entitled ***Kevin Smith's Kato***, but Smith isn't actually writing it. Is Parks coordinating what he's doing with Smith to make sure that it dovetails with Smith's ***Green Hornet***? "It *is* a big challenge, and a really exciting one. To be working on a project that Kevin has laid the groundwork for is an amazing opportunity. Since we wouldn't have this Kato without Kevin, Dynamite wants to recognize his work. It's a little daunting, because Kevin does what he does so well, but I'm really enjoying the process.

"I communicate with Kevin from time to time. We've remained pals since our days on ***Green Arrow***. I haven't spoken to him about ***Kato*** yet, but I know he's there if I need him. Kevin has set the tone for the main characters. Keeping his voice for these people in mind, I had quite a bit of flexibility on what happens within the pages of my ***Kato*** series."

Are there any plotline connections between the two books? "I was given certain starting and stopping points that I needed to keep in mind, in order to work with Kevin's framework," Parks said. "Our series introduces these two Katos as Kevin had them set up. More importantly, our series feeds directly into the beginning of Kevin's series, so I had to make sure that all the dominoes were in line. I'm dealing with three big characters that play huge roles in Kevin's Green Hornet book: the two Katos and a very impressive bad guy."

Even though Parks is writing a book that fits into Smith's ***Green Hornet*** mythos, not even he has been allowed to read Smith's full script. "I've been given information on a 'need to know' basis," Parks said. "I've asked for information where I thought I needed it, and I've been given what I need to do the job. I have not read the whole script, though. That's cool. For now, I have enough to go on, and I'm finding my own voice for these characters. Plus, I get to read Kevin's book fresh as it comes out, and just be a fan!"

Does Parks have any plans to write a ***Green Hornet*** project once the ***Kato*** book wraps up? "No plans yet, but I would love to. For now, I'm going to do my best to knock this stuff out of the park, and then I hope we can find something else. Kevin has built a great foundation, and I'd love to continue to play in this universe."

Parks is joined by artist Ale Garza, whose stylish art has appeared in the pages of such books as ***Fathom, Spider-Man, Supergirl, Teen Titans, Witchblade, Gen13,*** and ***Batgirl***. Garza explained how he became involved with ***Kato***. "I've been a close friend of *Nick Barrucci's* ever since I was a wide-eyed kid starting out in comics. So as I was finishing up ***Fathom #3***, I learned that Nick had this cool project in the pipeline, and the timing just worked perfectly!"

Was Garza a Kato fan prior to taking on this project? "The most I recall of that character is the fact that *Bruce Lee* played him in the TV show," Garza said. "But for my ***Kato*** book, I get to help reinterpret the character as a female! Since I love drawing strong female characters, this has been a blast! I'm really looking forward to helping flesh out this new and daring take, bringing my own unique twists to the character. Drawing kick-tail Asian girls is something that takes me back to my ***Batgirl*** days!"

Green Hornet: Year One #1, a $3.99 comic featuring covers by *Matt Wagner, Alex Ross, John Cassaday, & Stephen Segovia*, is slated for mid-April release. ***Kevin Smith's Kato #1***, the kickoff issue of the series featuring the new Kato, the old Kato, and the enigmatic Black Hornet, follows in late April.

by Cliff Biggers

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

WITH THE F.F. AND AVENGERS BABY-SITTING NEW YORK...
...I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT LEAVING FOR A WHILE!
THERE'S DAREDEVIL, ALSO ON PATROL!
THWIPE
SHEESH! I COULD STAY AWAY INDEFINITELY-- AND WHO'D NOTICE?
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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2009 Gem Award Winners Announced

Diamond Comic Distributors has tallied the votes cast by comic book specialty retailers, and the 2009 Diamond Gem Awards are official! "The 'Gemmies' are a fantastic opportunity for comic book retailers to honor suppliers and products that helped their businesses remain strong, despite a challenging economy," said Diamond President and CEO *Steve Geppi*. "We congratulate the 2009 Gem Award winners, who truly deserve this recognition, and look forward to many more years of excellence from these and all of the valued publishers and suppliers that keep our industry growing."

DC is the big winner with ten Gem Awards, while Dark Horse's ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** took home a pair of awards. The winners are:

- **2009 Comic Book Publisher of the Year Over 4%:** DC Comics
- **2009 Comic Book Publisher of the Year Under 4%:** BOOM! Studios
- **2009 Backlist Publisher of the Year:** DC Comics
- **2009 Manga Publisher of the Year:** VIZ Media
- **2009 Toy Manufacturer of the Year:** DC Direct
- **2009 Game Manufacturer of the Year:** Wizards of the Coast (WotC)
- **2009 Sports Card Manufacturer of the Year:** The Upper Deck Company
- **2009 Non-Sports Card Manufacturer of the Year:** Rittenhouse Archives
- **2009 Video Manufacturer of the Year:** Warner Home Video
- **2009 Comic Book of the Year Under $3.00:** ***Batman and Robin #1*** (DC Comics)
- **2009 Comic Book of the Year Over $3.00:** ***Blackest Night #1*** (DC Comics)
- **2009 Licensed Comic of the Year:** ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #22*** (Dark Horse Comics)
- **2009 Licensed TP or HC of the Year:** ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 8 TP Volume 4: Time of Your Life*** (Dark Horse Comics)
- **2009 Original Graphic Novel of the Year:** ***Richard Stark's Parker: The Hunter HC*** (IDW)
- **2009 Indie GN of the Year:** ***League of Extraordinary Gentlemen III: Century #1 – 1910*** (Top Shelf Productions)
- **2009 Manga TP of the Year:** ***Naruto TP Volume 45*** (Viz Media)
- **2009 Reprint TP or HC of the Year:** ***Watchmen TP*** (DC Comics)
- **2009 Anthology TP of the Year:** ***Toon Treasury of Classic Children's Comics HC*** (Abrams Comicarts)
- **2009 Trade Book of the Year:** ***Pride and Prejudice and Zombies SC*** (Chronicle Books)
- **2009 Magazine of the Year:** ***DC Super-Hero Figurine Collection*** (Eaglemoss Publications)
- **2009 Toy Product of the Year:** ***Hot Toys' The Dark Knight 1/6 Scale Joker*** (DC Direct)
- **2009 Toy Line of the Year:** ***Blackest Night*** (DC Direct)
- **2009 Collectible Statue of the Year:** ***Cover Girls of the DCU Statue: Wonder Woman*** (DC Direct)
- **2009 Mini-Bust of the Year:** ***Heroes of the DCU: Superman Bust*** (DC Direct)
- **2009 Sports Card Product of the Year:** ***Topps 2009 Series 1 Hobby MLB T/C Box*** (Topps)
- **2009 Non-Sports Card Product of the Year:** ***X-Men Archives T/C Box*** (Rittenhouse)
- **2009 Game Product of the Year:** ***Magic: The Gathering TCG 2010 Core Set*** (Wizards of the Coast)
- **2009 Audio / Visual Media of the Year:** ***Dr Horrible's Sing Along Blog DVD*** (New Video)

Th3rd World Has Legend-ary Plans

Th3rd World Studios ***The Stuff of Legend,*** one of 2009's most critically acclaimed sleeper hits, is returning to comic shops again in 2010, first with a ***Free Comic Book Day 2010*** edition previewing its upcoming projects, and then with ***The Stuff of Legend Volume 2***—and further down the line, ***The Stuff of Legend Volume 3.***

The Stuff of Legend follows the story of a group of toys whose young master was kidnapped by the Boogeyman during the era of World War II. Written by *Mike Raicht & Brian Smith*, the comic won rave reviews for not only its story, but the detailed artwork by new comics artist *Charles Paul Wilson III.*

The second volume, which will be a three-issue series, will launch in June. "***Stuff of Legend*** has given us something that we've been trying to achieve since the company began, which is visibility to both readers and retailers -- to know that an offering will at least be seen," publisher *Michael DeVito* told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers*. "We should be able to take some more chances on books that we feel passionate about and give each of those properties a better chance to succeed. The adaptation we're doing this summer for *Cassandra Clare's NY Times* bestselling series ***The Mortal Instruments*** was made possible in part by these successes, and while we don't intend to start flooding the market with books, it does afford us a little room for expansion."

Blackest Night Brightens DC's Summer Schedule

Think that ***Blackest Night*** will vanish from the comic shop racks after the series wraps in late March? Think again! June is going to be a major ***Blackest Night*** month for DC, with eight ***Blackest Night*** hardcover volumes slated for release that month. The full line-up includes:

- ***Blackest Night HC,*** collecting the eight parter by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, Oclair Albert,* and others.
- ***Blackest Night: Green Lantern HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 43-52*** by *Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, Ed Benes,* and others.
- ***Blackest Night: Green Lantern Corps HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Corps #s 39-46*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, Rebecca Buchman,* and others.
- ***Blackest Night: Black Lantern Corps Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***Blackest Night: Batman #s 1-3, Blackest Night: Superman #s 1-3,*** and ***Blackest Night: Teen Titans #s 1-3.***
- ***Blackest Night: Black Lantern Corps Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Blackest Night: JSA #s 1-3, Blackest Night: Flash #s 1-3,*** and ***Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #s 1-3.***
- ***Blackest Night: Rise of the Black Lanterns HC,*** collecting ***Atom & Hawkman #45, Catwoman #83, Phantom Stranger #43, Starman #81, Power of Shazam #48, The Question #37, Weird Western Tales #71, & Suicide Squad #67.***
- ***Blackest Night: Tales of the Corps HC,*** collecting ***Blackest Night: Tales of the Corps #s 1-3, Green Lantern #s 18-21 & 43, Green Lantern: Sinestro Corps Secret Files 2007,*** and ***Blackest Night #0.***

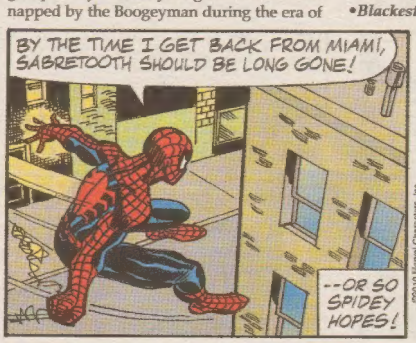
That's over 1600 pages of ***Blackest Night*** drama and action in one month, collected volume fans! Start planning your vacations now!

CSNsider

- There's been a little confusion over just how many covers DC will offer for ***The Flash #1.*** Completists can add three covers to their must-have list: the standard cover by *Francis Manapul,* a 1-for-25 variant by *Tony Harris,* and a limited 1-for-100 *Francis Manapul* sketch variant edition. Talk with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info on pricing and availability.
- And while we're talking about variants, did you catch the unannounced "secret variant" cover for ***Ultimate Comics Ultimate X #1?*** It's a variant on the hoodie cover—except the main figure has metal claws, not bone claws as depicted on the standard edition. It's a subtle difference, but one that completists will want to track down.
- May brings Marvel's "Heroic Age," a linewide refocus that will bring a "renewed sense of hope and optimism" to the Marvel Universe, complete with a new look, new teams and new rosters, and new characters.

"Our heroes have experienced some of their greatest trials and tribulations recently, but now there's going to be a renewed hope among their ranks," Marvel's Joe Quesada said of the refocus. The company will add Heroic Age trade dress to select books, offering readers convenient jumping-on points to sample the refocused titles.

- Marvel has made no secret of the fact that their ***Avengers*** franchise would relaunch as a focal point of "The Heroic Age." Now



I'LL NEVER GIVE UP TILL I FIND SPIDER-MAN --
--AND FORCE HIM TO TELL ME WHERE WOLVERINE IS!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
2-12
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they've revealed that the book at the center of that relaunch will be ***Avengers #1,*** written by *Brian Bendis* and illustrated by *John Romita Jr.* While the full line-up hasn't been announced yet, promo art indicates that the Bucky Barnes Captain America will be a part of the team, as well as Spider-Woman Jessica Drew. Look for further line-up leaks over the next few weeks.

•*Chip Kidd* is working on a second volume of ***Bat-Manga: The Secret History of Batman in Japan,*** a sequel to the acclaimed 2008 release which collected Batman manga from the 1960s that were rarely seen in the US. No release date has been set.

•Abrams' upcoming slipcased hardcover edition of ***The Simpsons/Futurama Crossover Crisis*** limited series is far more than just another collected edition. The hardcover, which will be packaged in a deluxe double die-cut slipcase, will be packaged along with a facsimile edition of the impossible-to-find ***Simpsons Comics #1*** from 1993. The book will also include an introduction by *Matt Groening*, preliminary sketches and bonus designs, and a pinup gallery featuring art by such talents as *Michael Allred, Sergio Aragonés, Kyle Baker, Geof Darrow, Peter Kuper, Alex Ross,* and *Bernie Wrightson*. Look for it in April.

•*Mark Waid* is joined by a trio of art talents on the upcoming ***Irredeemable Special #1.*** The book features three stories, all written by Waid, that are illustrated Howard Chaykin, Paul Azaceta, and hot newcomer Emma Rios (with whom Waid worked on his recent ***Strange*** miniseries for Marvel Comics).

The book will offer a look into the Plutonian's heroic beginnings and insights into his former teammates, the once-great Paradigm.

"This Special is a great entry point for readers that have yet to experience Boom's break-out hit series," Boom's marketing director *Chip Mosher* said. "You can't beat seeing the ***Irredeemable*** world rendered by Chaykin, Azaceta and Rios."

Irredeemable Special #1 is slated for April release, replacing the monthly issue of the ongoing series. ***Irredeemable #12*** will appear in May.

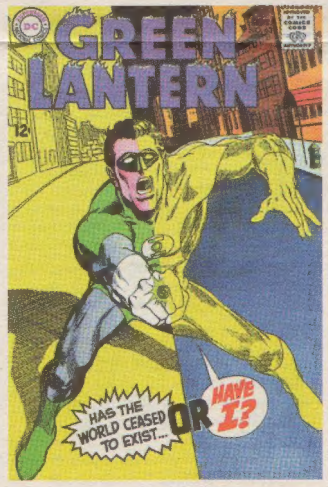
Collecting the Collected Volume

Many readers assume that collected volumes are forever—that is, they believe that once a story is collected in trade paperback or hardcover, it'll remain perpetually in print. The truth is, hundreds of collected volumes from the past decade or so are now out of print and quite hard to find—and even more are going out of print with each passing month, much to the surprise and dismay of readers and collectors.

With ***Blackest Night*** pushing Green Lantern and his allies into the spotlight, readers might be surprised to learn that several volumes of DC's ***Green Lantern*** *Archives* are now out of print and unlikely to see new editions. Furthermore, ***Showcase Presents Green Lantern Volume 1 TP*** is also currently unavailable, meaning that the ***Green Lantern Chronicles*** series is the only way to enjoy the early Silver Age stories at standard prices.

Brian Bendis remains Marvel's most popular writer, but the first ***Brian Bendis Daredevil Omnibus*** is now out of print and commanding high prices on the secondary market.

Want to compile a comprehensive library of Dark Horse's ***Conan*** volumes? You'll have a hard time finding ***Chronicles of Conan Volume 6,*** which has been out of print for many months now.



Marvel's ***Omnibus*** volumes and ***Marvel Masterworks,*** DC's ***Absolute Editions*** and ***Archives,*** Dark Horse's ***Archives,*** Gemstone's ***EC Archives***—numerous volumes in these series are out of print and hard to find... including books that were only released a couple of years ago!

Particularly hard to find are those faux-marble-finish variant editions of ***Marvel Masterworks.*** These limited editions (each one indicates the print run of that volume on the back cover) sell out quickly—often within weeks of release—and early volumes demand lofty price tags in the hundreds of dollars.

And some books go out of print once the publisher loses the rights to them. A good example would be Marvel's ***Essential Conan,*** a black and white collection of the first 25 issues of Marvel's series. Once Marvel lost the rights to reprint the works, the Conan volume went ouf print—and over the years, it has become almost impossible to locate.

So while it's common to assume that periodicals sell out but collected volumes are always available, the reality is that many collected volumes are the new periodicals—books offered for an established period of time then allowed to go out of print, at which point they become collectible (and sometimes quite expensive). While the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop are always glad to special order books that you're looking for, they can only get 'em as long as they're in print!

Back to Press

•***Captain America: Reborn #6 2nd Printing*** (DEC098425), in stores 3/3.

•***GI Joe: Cobra II #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC098306), in stores now.

•***Transformers: Last Stand of the Wreckers #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC098305), in stores now.

BEEN OUT FOR A WEB-SWING, TIGER?
YEAH. COULDN'T SLEEP.
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CSN TOP COMICS: MARCH

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #1

Scott Snyder & Stephen King (W); Rafael Albuquerque (A)
(Vertigo/DC JAN100344 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Witness the birth of a brand new species of vampire... a vampire powered by the sun—a vampire who is stronger, fiercer, and meaner than anything that ever came before.

Why Should You Care?

Vertigo gets back to its trademark horror roots with this compelling ongoing series—but the real excitement comes from the fact that best-selling horror legend *Stephen King* is co-writing the project, contributing one of the two stories that appear in each of the first five issues!

BATMAN AND ROBIN #10

Grant Morrison (W); Andy Clarke (A)
(DC JAN100238 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

We've seen Batman and Robin take on a variety of adversaries—but who expected to see Batman and Robin take on one another? Why would Talia al Ghul manipulate her son Damian into taking action against Batman? Will Damian do as Mother says... or stay loyal to Dick Grayson

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues to write the best Batman book on the racks today—and this time, he's joined by artist *Andy Clarke*, whose work on ***REBELS*** has generated more than a little buzz.

BLACKEST NIGHT #8 (OF 8)

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis, Oclair Albert, & Joe Prado (A)
(DC JAN100231 $3.99)

GREEN LANTERN #52 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)
(DC JAN100234 $2.99)

GREEN LANTERN CORPS #46 (BLACKEST NIGHT)

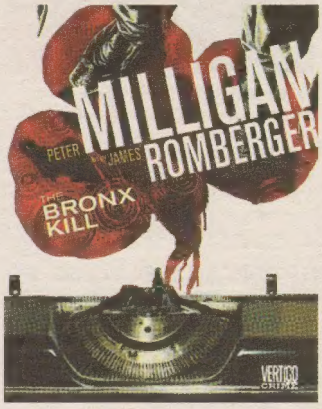
Peter Tomasi (W); Patrick Gleason & Rebecca Buchman (A)
(DC JAN100236 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The biggest event of the past year comes to an end in a storyline that will pave the way for a bright new day in the DC Universe... if they can survive their final stand against Nekron and the Black Lanterns, that is! Talk about your ultimate life-and-death struggle!...

Why Should You Care?

This isn't just the finale of a best-selling storyline, it's also a turning point for the DC Universe as *Geoff Johns* brings his dark saga to a close, paving the way for ***Brightest Day*** beginning next month.



BRONX KILL HC

Peter Milligan (W); James Romberger (A)
(Vertigo/DC NOV090223 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

A writer who turned his back on his family's cop heritage is forced to revisit his family's history when his wife goes missing... and it appears that there's a connection with her disappearance and his family's past.

Why Should You Care?

Peter Milligan presents Vertigo Crime's darkest novel yet, and he's joined by cartoonist and fine artist *James Romberger* for a compelling tale of crime and personal drama.

FEVRE DREAM #1 (OF 10)

George R.R. Martin (W); Rafa Lopez (A)
(Avatar JAN100753 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

An 1850's Mississippi riverboat pilot partners with a pale, mysterious stranger who helps him to build the boat of his dreams... but Joshua's motives may not be humanitarian—and his identity may not be human!

Why Should You Care?

This ten-parter based on the acclaimed antebellum vampire novel by award-winning author *George R.R. Martin*, is a strange amalgam of *Bram Stoker* and *Mark Twain* that is sure to appeal to fans of ***True Blood***.

FIRST WAVE #1 (OF 6)

Brian Azzarello (W); Rags Morales (A)
(DC JAN100264 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Welcome to DC's pulp corner of the multiverse, a place where there are no super-powered heroes—but there are costumed crime-fighters and human heroes like Batman, Doc Savage, the Blackhawks, and the Spirit, among others.

Why Should You Care?

The return of Doc Savage to the DC line is such an event that they've launched an entire new world just for his adventures! If you liked what you saw in ***Batman/Doc Savage*** last fall, you'll *love* this six-parter and the ***Doc Savage*** series that follows next month.

FLASH: SECRET FILES AND ORIGINS 2010 #1

Geoff Johns (W); Scott Kolins, Francis Manapul, & others (A)
(DC JAN100266 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of ***Blackest Night: Flash*** and ***Flash: Rebirth*** comes the beginning of a new era for Barry Allen and the deadly Rogues. This issue also offers some hints as to what's in store for Wally West, Kid Flash, and other members of the Flash family.

Why Should You Care?

Comics superstar *Geoff Johns* writes this pivotal transition issue that leads into next month's ***Flash #1***. If you thought the ***Secret Files*** name meant that it's just a "who's who" compendium, you're in for quite a surprise!

GREEN ARROW #31

JT Krul (W); Diogenes Neves (A)
(DC JAN100277 $2.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE: RISE & FALL OF ARSENAL #1 (OF 4)

JT Krul (W); Geraldo Borges & Marlo Alquiza (A)
(DC JAN100279 $3.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE: RISE AND FALL SPECIAL #1

James Robinson & JT Krul (W); Mike Mayhew (A)
(DC JAN100275 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of ***Cry for Justice***, both Oliver Queen and Roy Harper have to come to terms with their own personal crises in storyline that will forever alter the lives of both heroes.

Why Should You Care?

Dan DiDio promised that 2010 would be a big year for Green Arrow... but he didn't promise it would be a *happy* year for Green Arrow. In this storyline running through ***Green Arrow*** and ***Rise and Fall***, each hero will try to overcome a life-shattering event... but how each deals with is own crisis is both pivotal and defining.

A NEW DAY... A NEW CITY!
MIAMI IS LOVELY, ISN'T IT, PETER?
ANY PLACE WITH YOU WOULD BE, HONEY!
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GUILD #1 (OF 3)

Felicia Day (W); Jim Rugg (A)
(Dark Horse JAN100072 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Witness the origin tale of the Knights of Good, a group of internet role-playing gamers, in this orignal story that fills in details never revealed on the popular internet show.

Why Should You Care?

Series creator, writer, and star *Felicia Day* is the mastermind behind ***The Guild's*** comic book debut, and that guarantees that readers will find the same zaniness in the pages of this miniseries as they find on each episode of the award-winning internet phenomenon.

IRON MAN 1.5 #1 (OF 3)

Joe Casey & Justin Theroux (W); Barry Kitson (A)
(Marvel JAN100574 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

What happened *after* Tony Stark announced "I Am Iron Man" at the end of the first film? Find out in this miniseries that fills in the missing month between the end of ***Iron Man*** and the upcoming ***Iron Man 2***.

Why Should You Care?

Joe Casey is joined by ***Iron Man 2*** screenwriter *Justin Theroux* for an original story set in the world of the ***Iron Man*** films. And you won't get this story in the theater or on the DVDs, which means that lots of ***Iron Man 2*** filmgoers are going to want to find out what happened in between!

KEVIN SMITH'S GREEN HORNET #1

Kevin Smith (W); Jonathan Lau (A)
(Dynamite JAN100862 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Witness the origin of the new Green Hornet and Kato in this series based on *Kevin Smith's* unfilmed movie script.

Why Should You Care?

A contemporary Green Hornet, a female Kato—and an original story by *Kevin Smith* based on (and expanding on) the Miramax Films script that he wrote several years ago. Now that the studios have gone a different way with their cinematic ***Green Hornet***, this is the only place you'll find Smith's story!

NEMESIS #1

Mark Millar (W); Steve McNiven (A)
(Marvel JAN100633 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

What if the smartest, toughest costumed villain in the world were totally evil? You're about to find out!...

Why Should You Care?

Mark Millar, the mastermind behind *Kick Ass*, joins with *Steve McNiven* to present a twisted look at what might happen if a sociopathic villain had unlimited resources... and it *ain't* a pretty sight.

PRELUDE TO DEADPOOL CORPS #1 (OF 5)

Victor Gischler (W); Rob Liefeld (A)
(Marvel JAN100537 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

It's a superhero team you never expected... for good reason! Deadpool, Headpool, Lady Deadpool, Kidpool, Dogpool... they're all in here!

Why Should You Care?

Hey, if ***Green Lantern Corps*** worked well for all those green-ring-wielding heroes, then the whole ***Corps*** concept should be equally popular for the brown-ring-wearing Deadpool and company, right? Okay, it may be less epic in scope—but it's sure to be much funnier!

SIEGE #3 (OF 4)

Brian Bendis (W); Olivier Coipel (A)
(Marvel JAN100502 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The battle for Asgard is in full force, and the stakes couldn't be higher—for both humans and Norse gods! And for some, this will be the final battle...

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis brings back the goodness and the grandeur of the Marvel Universe in this limited series that wraps up the long-running stourliness that began way back in ***House of M*** and ***Secret Invasion***. Want to get in on the ground floor of the upcoming Heroic Age? This is the place to be!

SPARTA USA #1 (OF 6)

David Lapham (W); Johnny Timmons (A)
(WildStorm/DC JAN100332 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sparta seems like the ultimate American town... and may be that's just what it is. After all, the townspeople maintain their happy lifestyle with treachery, blackmail, and murder. But now a former town hero has returned, and he's armed with a secre that will expose the rotten core of this American Dream...

Why Should You Care?

With *Sparta USA*, *David Lapham* returns to the sort of dark storytelling that made his ***Stray Bullets*** a critically acclaimed cult favorite.

SUPERMAN: LAST STAND OF NEW KRYPTON #1 (OF 3)

James Robinson & Sterling Gates (W); Pete Woods (A)
(DC JAN100249 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Will Kandor's freedom be short-lived? It will be if Brainiac has his way! He's launched an attack on New Krypton, intent on recapturing the city and storing it away in a bottle once again. But General Zod has a plan to escape recapture... a plan that may doom the Earth!

Why Should You Care?

Thought that ***Superman: World of New Krypton*** was a conclusion of Superman's year-long kryptonian adventure? Superman's troubles are about to get even worse, and it'll take the assistance of Supergirl, Superboy, and the Legion of Super-Heroes to straighten things out.

ULTIMATE COMICS NEW ULTIMATES #1

Jeph Loeb (W); Frank Cho (A)
(Marvel JAN100547 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

With Thor gone, Loki takes his revenge unleashing the worst of Asgard on Earth. Iron Man must gather the heroes for their biggest Ultimates adventure yet. But who has made the final cut? And who can't be trusted?

Why Should You Care?

It turns out that last year's report of the Ultimate Universe's demise were greatly exaggerated. There's still plenty of superhero life left in the Ultiverse... and with creators like *Jeph Loeb & Frank Cho* involved, there's plenty of excitement as well!

X-MEN: SECOND COMING

Christopher Yost & Craig Kyle (W); David Finch (A)
(Marvel JAN100608 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Cyclops' faith pays off when Cable returns to the present with Hope, the girl he believes to be the mutant messiah. But will she be the savior or destroyer of mutantkind?

Why Should You Care?

The climax of four long years of X-Men storylines begins here (and yes, mutant storylines *do* have endings!). Will the future be Hope-ful or Hope-less? Find out here!

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #92

(TwoMorrows JAN101199 $6.95)

Sword and sorcery's the subject of this issue, which spotlights such classics as ***Claw the Unconquered***, ***Hercules***, ***Dagar the Invincible***, and ***First Kingdom***.

ANIME & PHILOSOPHY SC

(PGW DEC091088 $19.95)

Josef Steiff & Tristan D. Tamplin examines some of the most loved, best-known, and intriguing anime films and series to find what lies at their core.

OPENING NIGHT IN MIAMI...
"IT'S A THANKLESS TASK--BEING PERFECT ALL THE TIME!"
THAT'S MY WIFE UP THERE!
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ART OF TONY HARRIS: ART & SKULLDUGGERY HC

(IDW JAN100998 $49.99)

Desperado's *Joe Pruett* & IDW present a comprehensive look at the acclaimed career of Tony Harris—and there's no one producing more impressive art volumes than Pruett, as his ***Brian Bolland, Joe Jusko,*** and ***Tim Bradstreet*** volumes aptly demonstrate.

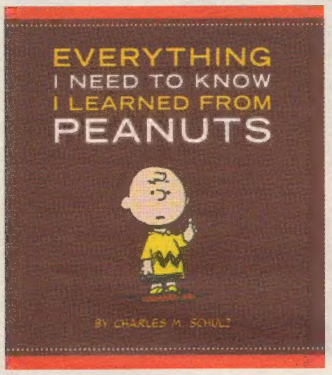
BREAKING INTO COMICS THE MARVEL WAY #1 (OF 2)

(Marvel JAN100599 $3.99)

BREAKING INTO COMICS THE MARVEL WAY #2 (OF 2)

(Marvel JAN100600 $3.99)

C.B. Cebulski assembles a two-part guide for breaking into Marvel Comics. This book blends commentary by top talents with step-by-step submission information and a sample comics script.



EVERYTHING NEED TO KNOW LEARNED FROM PEANUTS

(Running Press JAN101231 $12.95)

A look at life lessons, *Charles Schulz* style. Within these pages, Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Rerun, Sally, and all the rest impart their thoughts on friendship, music, love, food, baseball, and many other subjects through artwork and text from Schulz's classic ***Peanuts*** comic strips

ROUGH JUSTICE: ALEX ROSS DC COMICS SKETCHBOOK HC

(Pantheon DEC091096 $30.00)

We all know Ross's stunning color work—but now you can enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the stunning black-and-white drawings of the DC characters you loved from ***Mythology***: Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, The Flash, Green Lantern, Black Canary, and many more

Hot Commodities:
March's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

ANT-MAN STATUE

(Bowen JAN101513 $170.00)

He may be Marvel's smallest hero, but he stands a full 12" tall in this stunning Bowen Designs statue sculpted by *Jason Smith.*

BLACKEST NIGHT POSTER #1

(DC Direct JAN100389 $8.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT POSTER #2

(DC Direct JAN100391 $8.99)

Ivan Reis's stunning art for the cover of ***Blackest Night #1*** and the ***Blackest Night*** promotional poster can decorate your walls for less than ten bucks each!

BLACKEST NIGHT SERIES 3 BLACK LANTERN AQUAMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG090264 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT SERIES 3 GREEN LANTERN ARISIA ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG090265 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT SERIES 3 ORANGE LANTERN LARFLEEZE ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG090266 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT SERIES 3 STAR SAPPHIRE ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct AUG090267 $24.00)

DC Direct's ***Blackest Night*** line continues with another quartet of action figures. You can be sure that these are going to sell out just as quickly as the first two series, so grab 'em while you can!

DC DYNAMICS AQUAMAN STATUE

(DC Direct AUG090259 $195.00)

Tim Bruckner's sculpture depicts Aquaman rising from the depths on the crest of a brilliant blue tidal wave, trident in hand.

DR HORRIBLE MAQUETTE

(QMx FEB101490 $69.95)

This 9" tall limited 1000-copy edition sculpture features the man with the PhD in Horribleness.

HEROES OF THE DCU SHAZAM BUST

(DC Direct AUG090269 $70.00)

Gary Frank designs a realistic interpretation of the World's Mightiest Mortal, atop a base of the Seven Deadly Sins trapped in stone, translated into three dimensions by sculptor *Jean St. Jean.*

Collected Cool:
March's Best Reprint Volumes

ARCHIE: THE WEDDING TP —WILL YOU MARRY ME?

(Archie JAN100726 $14.95)

The "Road Not Taken" look at the Riverdale gang's future from ***Archie #600-605*** (plus the epilogue from ***Archie #606***) is collected in one volume.

BLACKSAD HC VOL 1

(Dark Horse NOV090041 $29.99)

Juan Díaz Canales & Juanjo Guarnido's anthropomorphic noir adventure returns to print at long last in this extra-length volume collecting the first three Blacksad stories.

BOOK OF MR NATURAL HC

(Fantagraphics JAN100951 $19.99)

Find out what wisdom looked like in back in the Se with this new hardcover collection featuring over 120 pages of vintage Crumb comics starring the white-bearded, diminutive sage-cum-charlatan.

DARK SHADOWS COMPLETE SERIES HC VOL 1

(Hermes JAN100960 $49.99)

Not only was there once a daytime soap opera with vampires and other supernatural characters, there was also a comic book series based on the same soap opera! Now it comes back into print, thanks to Hermes Press, who's kicking off a multi-volume project reprinting all 35 issues of the ***Dark Shadows*** comic.

LIL ABNER HC VOL 1

(IDW JAN101030 $49.99)

Unavailable for far too long, *Al Capp's* comic masterpiece from 1934-1936 returns to print in a new comprehensive collection that includes not only the dailies, but also the Sundays (which have never before collected in book form).

MARVEL MASTERWORKS: ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH HC VOL 3

(Marvel OCT090592 $59.99)

Lee, Kirby, Ditko, Heck, Ayers, Sinnott—they're all in here! This volume collects ***Tales To Astonish #s 21-30***, including the first Ant-Man story from ***TTA #27.***

NEWSBOY LEGION BY SIMON AND KIRBY HC VOL 1

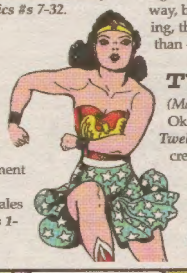
(DC NOV090179 $49.99)

DC's comprehensive *Jack Kirby* reprint program continues with this collection of Simon & Kirby tales from ***Star Spangled Comics #s 7-32.***

WONDER WOMAN CHRONICLES TP VOL 1

(DC DEC090222 $17.99)

The Amazing Amazon gets the full-color ***Chronicles*** treatment with this volume reprinting Golden Age Wonder Woman tales from ***All Star #8, Sensation #s 1-9,*** and ***Wonder Woman #1.***



Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

CIVIL WAR ADVENTURE GN VOL 1

(History JAN100961 $14.95)

Chuck Dixon, Gary Kwapisz, & Enrique Villagran launch a new line of graphic novels dedicated to America's bloodiest conflict and defining hour, beginning with the Battle of Bull Run.

GARTH ENNIS' BATTLEFIELDS #4 (OF 9): FIREFLY PART 1

(Dynamite JAN100884 $3.50)

The Tankies' Sergeant Stiles returns, recently promoted and angrier than ever. He's got a new crew and a new tank, a Sherman Firefly with a high-velocity gun capable of taking out even the fearsome German Tiger. Too bad the enemy have a new tank of their own, the mighty King Tiger, with twice the armor and firepower of the original. No one produces more riveting war tales than *Garth Ennis,* as ***Battlefields*** aptly demonstrates.

JUGHEAD #200

(Archie JAN100735 $2.50)

Robot Chicken head writer Tom Root writes this special issue of ***Jughead*** that begins when Jughead trades his metabolism to a witch in exchange for a mega-cheeseburger.

NIGHT OWLS TP VOL 1

(Zuda/DC DEC090224 $14.99)

In 1920s New York City, Professor Ernest Baxter, an expert in all things arcane; Mindy Markus, a scrappy flapper; and Roscoe, a gargoyle from the Bronx, are The Night Owls. Together they solve supernatural crimes no one else can. This is the first print volume of the webcomic hit by *Bobby Timony.*

PHANTOM/CAPTAIN ACTION #1 (OF 2)

(Moonstone JAN101055 $3.99)

When an international intelligence cartel makes a surgical strike for global control, UN committee member Diana Palmer-Walker and her legendary husband are all that stands in their way, but when the Ghost Who Walks goes missing, the only one Diana can turn to is none other than - Captain Action!

TWELVE SPEARHEAD

(Marvel JAN100597 $3.99)

Okay, it isn't the long-awaited finale of *The Twelve*—but at least one member of that series' creative team is involved! *Chris Weston* presents an untold tale from Marvel's Golden Age featuring the forgotten heroes who would go on to become The Twelve.

twitter.com/csnsider

YOUR PLAY'S BEING HELD OVER? BUT YOU JUST OPENED TONIGHT!
THE OWNER SAYS THE DEMAND FOR TICKETS IS ENORMOUS.
EXIT
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO GET BACK TO NEW YORK SOON?
I'LL HAVE RUN OUT OF MONEY AFTER A WEEK OR SO!
BUT MEANWHILE, I'M GONNA MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT WITH MY FAVORITE WIFE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-17
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